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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Bussick et al.
Appl. No.: 09/687,689
Filed: October 13, 2000
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING DUAL EVALUATION SCHEME
Art Unit: 3713
Examiner: S. Jones
Docket No.: 0112300-474

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING-BY EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

Sir:

I hereby certify that the following documents relating to the above-identified application:

1. Combined Amendment & Petition for Extension of Time (Large Entity (2 pages);
2. Response to Office Action (18 pages);
3. Check in the amount of \$110.00;
4. A postcard which we ask you to date stamp and return.

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

on December 19, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

Robert Bussick

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

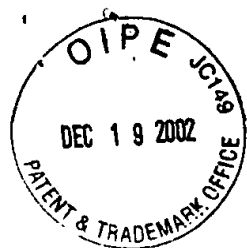
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Honorable Commissioner for Patents
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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2002, and in accordance with the personal interview courteously granted by the Examiner to Applicants' representatives on October 22, 2002, please enter this Response in the above-identified patent application.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

Sub.D>1. (Three Times Amended) A method for operating a slot machine including a plurality of symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) maintaining a list of award-yielding symbol combinations of said plurality of symbols in a controller;
- (b) randomly generating on a plurality of paylines a first set of the symbols from the plurality of symbols;
- (c) providing an award for each award-yielding symbol combination appearing in said first set on any of the paylines;
- (d) selecting at least one but not all of the symbols in the first set for individual replacement and individually replacing each said selected symbol in the first set with one of the plurality of symbols to generate a second set of the symbols; and